

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, June 13, 2007 – 6:00pm

Trotter Recreation Center – 3906 Betula Street

PRESENT: Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Randy Scott

ABSENT: Robert Douglas, III

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Alfano, Candice Bruton, Kathy Chatfield, Lorri Everett, Courtney Hemphill, John Hughes, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Lane Newsome, Weesie Person, Marcie Richardson, Dee Scott, Laurie Thore, Mary Vigue (Budget & Evaluation), Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Trotter Recreation Center. Due to the absence of Robert Douglas, III, Chair, David Hoggard, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 9, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation June Employee of the Month, Lorri Everett.

Trotter Recreation Center Presentation

Dee Scott, Trotter Recreation Center Director, presented the Commission with information and programs held at the center.

OLD BUSINESS

Athletic Program Privatization Update

An athletic privatization report was distributed to the Commission. This document is attached below and a hard copy is attached to the back of printed minutes.

Mary Vigue, Budget and Evaluation Analyst, stated that this report has also been given to City Council. The Budget and Evaluation Department was asked by City Council to report what savings would be initiated if the Parks and Recreation Department privatized all athletics. Maintenance was not included in the report as most who would take over athletics would not want the maintenance responsibility. Programming of athletics is 3% of net cost. Maintenance is approximately 12% of the total net cost. Once calculated the total savings was only one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) if privatized. Since distribution of this report no discussions have taken place without any foreseen future discussion.



Privatization of Parks
and Recreation Athle

Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, stated that last month the Commission was given a revised version of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations to consider for approval. At that time, some changes were

suggested and the suggestions have since been put in place. Wilson asked for the approval or denial of the revised rules and regulations from the Commission.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Rose Marie Ponton and seconded by Randy Scott to accept the revised Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Sportsplex Request for Proposals

Lane Newsome, Sportsplex Manager, stated that the Commission was informed during the previous Commission meeting that Request for Proposals (RFP's) would be sent out for the Sportsplex basketball and soccer programs. Four RFP's were sent out for basketball. The only bid received was from Delaney Rudd's Softball and Basketball Academy. Newsome stated that the Sportsplex has been pleased with the Delaney Rudd organization in the past and will move forward with Delaney Rudd's proposal. Four RFP's were sent out for the soccer program. Two proposals were received, one from Greensboro Youth Soccer (GYS) and the other from Soccer Ops. The RFP committee is in the process of reviewing these two proposals. Newsome stated he will return to the Commission next month to make a recommendation on the soccer program.

Newsome informed the Commission that RFP's have been sent for the Sportsplex fitness program. The RFP's are due June 15, 2007. Recommendations for this program may be brought forth to the Commission next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Greensboro's Farmer's Curb Market Policy

A copy of the Farmer's Curb Market Policy was distributed to the Commission. This policy is attached below and a hard copy is attached to the back of printed minutes.

Gerry Alfano, City Beautiful Coordinator, came before the Commission seeking approval of the Farmer's Curb Market Policy. Alfano made special mention that vendors are being asked for the first time to complete a vendor application and mention of item 11 in the policy referring to violation and penalties.

Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, inquired if input has been given from the Vendor Advisory Committee.

Alfano replied stating yes and that the committee consists of ten members who serve three year terms.



FM Policy 06-07.rtf

Action Taken

A motion was made by Paul Brown and seconded by Lori Galbreath to endorse the Greensboro Farmer's Curb Market Policy. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Southwest Recreation Center Master Plan

Candice Bruton, Strategic Planning Administrator, welcomed members of the surrounding southwest community in attendance, many of which who have been part of this process. Candice stated that this project was identified in the 1998 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Bruton turned the presentation over to Derek Williams with Site Solutions.

Williams distributed the Southwest Recreation Center Master Plan to the Commission.

Williams stated that this is an excellent site selected for this park. The site is located south of Hilltop Road behind the former Twin Oaks Golf Course. Primary access will be located off Shimer Drive. The area where Twin Oaks Golf Course resided will become multi-family apartments and condominiums. There are single family residents to the north, to the west there is single family residential development, to the east is Adams Farm with single and multi-family residential and to the south is single family residential.

Williams stated that the park is predominately wooded and has one small open field near the center of the site. There is a creek that runs through the middle of the site which is a USGS Blueline Stream and has a one hundred foot buffer. There are several smaller creeks on the property. The site is located within the lower Randleman Lake Watershed so there are some requirements in terms of development. Twelve percent of the site can be developed with impervious materials.

Williams continued stating that two public meetings were held with a very good turn out. The activities of most interest were walking trails, multi-purpose fields, fitness stations along the trails, playground, sprayground, dog park and disc golf. The master plan serves the character of the land and meets the public and overall community needs.

In addition to the recreation center, future phases consist of multi-purpose fields to the south of the recreation center, a playground, sprayground/splashpad, picnic shelter with outdoor restrooms and parking for approximately one hundred eighty cars that would be located in the western node. The eastern node will consist of parking for approximately fifty cars, a smaller multi-purpose field with restrooms, picnic shelters, playground and a proposed ¼ acre dog park.

Bruton clarified that the first phase includes construction of the park road from Shimer Drive to the recreation center, parking, and the recreation center. Future phases are contingent upon a future bond referendum.

Charlene Thorne, with Site Solutions stated that the two interactive community workshops that were held were to establish what the public wants in the recreation center building. During the first workshop review of the basic site took place then everyone broke out into smaller groups to allow them to express what they want and need in their community recreation center. Then they discussed dialogue and took votes on their favorite features. The votes were tallied then the results were presented to the community. A meeting then took place with the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss the public needs and wants in order to develop a program that would give the most to the community and what the budget will allow. The outcome developed into roughly a fourteen thousand seven hundred fifty square foot facility containing a basketball/volleyball court, a fitness/gym area, a multi-purpose area that could be used for aerobics, yoga, etc. as well as meeting space that could also be used for arts and crafts, general community meetings, etc.

The PowerPoint that was presented showed the approximate cost of five million three hundred thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,330,500) for Phase One. Phase Two would consist of approximately three million three hundred forty eight thousand four hundred fifty-five dollars (\$3,348,455). Currently the projected schedule to open is March 2009.

Paul Brown, Commissioner, inquired about the possible future addition to the north of the building and would this be an additional court or will this be determined later.

Thorne replied stating right now it has been allotted as a court.

Marc Bush inquired about Phase Two and are the multi-purpose fields contingent upon a future bond referendum.

Thorne replied stating yes.

Some citizens in attendance inquired about the lighting for the multi-purpose fields and voiced their concerns of possible brightness for those residing near that area. Concerns were expressed about the proposed dog park being one quarter of an acre and if this would be a large enough area.

Williams stated that with the one hundred foot buffer around the multi-purpose field and with the technology of lights today the lighting should not pose a problem for surrounding residents.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Lori Galbreath and seconded by Paul Brown to move forward with the Southwest Recreation Center Master Plan. A vote in favor was unanimous.

War Memorial Stadium

Action Taken

A motion was made by Ken Free and seconded by Paul Brown to reconsider the vote made during the previous Commission meeting regarding War Memorial Stadium.

Marc Bush, Commissioner, inquired as to why the reconsideration.

Free replied stating that the reconsideration is in regard to the one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) designated for the demolition of the left field bleachers.

David Hoggard, Vice-Chair, added that the War Memorial Stadium proposal is one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). A portion of this is one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) to be used towards demolition of the bleachers and press box.

Bush inquired as to what would happen if that section is not demolished. In consideration of preservation and this being a historical location, in terms of a cost stand point, if this portion of the stadium is not demolished what would this mean financially in having to maintain that part of the stadium. Bush stated he would expect that it would be a substantial cost. Bush asked, for clarification, that would we remove the one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) from this project from what we recommended to City Council and leave this portion of the stadium as is?

Hoggard replied stating, yes, to allow time to more closely follow the preservation. Hoggard stated that he contacted Preservation Greensboro and a couple of foundations, such as Aycokk Neighborhood, to see if there is support and also perhaps gain some foundation money to do things to War Memorial Stadium that might not happen otherwise. Hoggard stated that he received good responses. Hoggard met with the Friends of Parks and Recreation Foundation last week to discuss possible donations, private or otherwise, that could fund a plan that more closely resembles what the War Memorial Taskforce brought forth in the years past. There is a plan that closely follows a demolition; although not this extensive. This demolition is a lot further than we ever looked at as a taskforce. Some people who know preservation and historic property believe that this level of demolition can take this property off the national registry if complete demolition of the bleachers occurred.

Bush added that if he understood correctly, under the taskforce, the plan didn't take the bleachers that low.

Hoggard stated that perhaps the one hundred fifteen thousand (\$115,000) could be used as a matching fund for foundation money to keep it on the registry and make the area something more than just gravel. Hoggard stated that if anyone requests to see the taskforce plans he can provide these at the next meeting.

Bush stated that the plans were rejected by the voters on the bond referendum.

Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, stated that the plan was voted down, but City Council has decided that something has to be done. Ponton continued stating that the main thing we are trying to accomplish is to give more time to preserve what is there and not take the fund to completely destroy everything that is there. All we're asking for is time to see if something can be worked out on that part.

Bush stated that as Hoggard talked about foundations and the preservation society, he didn't hear mention of how much money would be needed to support or match whatever it is the city might do. Bush continued stating that we've been dealing with this for two to three years and doesn't find the support out there for this. Bush stated he doesn't fault trying to delay this, but is not sure the people want to invest. Bush requested quick and specific feedback in terms of money as we need to move forward with the stadium.

Galbreath inquired about a timeframe for when we can be done with this entire decision.

Hoggard suggested that the City Manager bring that forward.

Bush stated that he is afraid that by delaying the process that the willingness of City Council or anyone considering to help fund this part may decide to use their money elsewhere.

Kuester stated that City Council is in the midst of their budget discussions and there may be some merit finding out what they're going to do if this topic is mentioned and discuss if they're talking about a 2/3 bond for the stadium or not. Kuester stated that although not trying to lead the Commission either way, she believes more information is needed to make a decision to know if this is a real issue. Once more information is received we could call a meeting.

Vigue stated that she would research whether or not the 2/3 bond would be an option.

Scott asked if everyone would be in agreement with moving the destruction of bleachers last to be done on the project list.

Hoggard stated that he requests removing the demolition part out of the report.

Action Taken

Randy Scott made a motion and Paul Brown seconded to table this item due to the possibility of having more information in the near future. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Bush stated that he is concerned that during the last Commission meeting this item was voted 7-1 and he is somewhat dismayed that at the following City Council meeting David Hoggard was in front of City Council speaking as a citizen, but also referenced himself as Vice-Chair of this Commission. Bush continued stating that Hoggard acknowledge to City Council that this Commission voted 7-1 to approve this recommendation about War Memorial Stadium and mentioned the idea of removing the demolition portion of the stadium. Bush questioned the timing of this and is it appropriate for a member of this Commission to do such. Bush stated he doesn't believe City Council yet had the recommendation from this Commission or the knowledge and believed there was some confusion.

Hoggard stated that Bush's point was well taken. Hoggard continued stating that speaking as a citizen he had two things to report. One, we had made a recommendation to City Council and second, spoke to his idea of removing the demolition.

Bush stated that we should move forward towards a resolution in gaining information. We, as a Commission, need to do so as we owe it to the citizens, staff and City Council.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Kuester invited the Commission to the Citizen Board Member Forum and for those planning to attend registration is now due. Kuester stated that on behalf of John Hughes and his staff they are very engaged the State Games.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Rose Marie Ponton stated that she attended the GYC Banquet which was a great event and was wonderful to see high school young ladies and gentleman presiding and conducting programming for our youth.

Paul Brown requested information on the name history of this meeting location. Brown stated that the NRPA magazine has an article regarding Chimney Rock State Park. Brown will be joining John Hughes in the near future to tour Parks and Recreation facilities in district 5.

Kuester replied giving a brief history of this meeting location.

Marc Bush briefed the Commission on the State Games events. Bush invited the Commission to attend the reception and open ceremony of the State Games.

Ken Free stated that he attended the City Beautiful luncheon.

David Hoggard stated that he attended the BassMasters tournament.

With no further business Hoggard adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation